



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 337

January Session, 2005

House Bill No. 6787

House of Representatives, April 13, 2005

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. VILLANO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-261 of the general statutes is amended by
2 adding subsection (i) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

3 (NEW) (i) Medical assistance shall be provided, in accordance with
4 the provisions of subsection (e) of section 17a-6, to any child under the
5 supervision of the Commissioner of Children and Families who is not
6 receiving Medicaid benefits, has not yet qualified for Medicaid benefits
7 or is otherwise ineligible for such benefits because of institutional
8 status. To the extent practicable, the Commissioner of Children and
9 Families shall apply for, or assist such child in qualifying for, the
10 Medicaid program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	17b-261
-----------	---------------------	---------

HS *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires that medical assistance be provided to certain children under the supervision of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The Department of Social Services already runs a state-funded medical assistance program for non-Medicaid eligible DCF children. As the bill codifies this current practice, there is no fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6787

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**SUMMARY:**

By law, the commissioner of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) must insure that all children under her supervision have adequate medical, dental, psychiatric, psychological, and social services. This bill requires medical assistance to be provided, in accordance with this mandate, to children who (1) are not receiving Medicaid, (2) have not yet qualified for Medicaid, or (3) are ineligible for Medicaid because they live in an institutional setting.

Under current practice, DSS runs a state-funded medical assistance program for children under DCF supervision through a cooperative arrangement with DCF. This includes those children (1) adopted from DCF whose families receive subsidies for their care but are not considered Title "IV-E" eligible; (2) transitioning out of DCF custody who are generally between the ages of 18 and 20, (3) residing in the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or other correctional facility, and (4) for whom DSS has not determined Medicaid eligibility. DSS recently received federal approval to cover the first two groups under Medicaid. Federal law prohibits states from granting Medicaid to individuals in correctional institutions.

(Although the bill's language is added to the state's Medicaid statutes, and DSS runs the state's Medicaid program, it does not actually specify which agency should provide this assistance.)

The bill requires the DCF commissioner, to the extent practicable, to apply for, or assist children in qualifying for, Medicaid.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

BACKGROUND

IV-E Children

Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act generally governs state foster care and adoption assistance programs, including funding for such programs. Children with a IV-E status are automatically eligible for Medicaid.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 17 Nay 0